



Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections

2011 Annual Report

"Enriching Lives through Effective and Caring Service"

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Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections

Originally titled the “Institutional Inspections Commission” in 1959.

Sybil Brand Commission 2011 Annual Report

Eleanor R. Montaña
Chairperson

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The County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan

Mission: *The County mission is to “Enrich Lives through Effective and Caring Service”.*

Vision: *The Los Angeles County vision is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self sufficiency, well being, and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities*



Sybil Brand Commission's Responsibility

*The Commission mostly represents goal number one of the
Los Angeles County Strategic Plan Goals:*

OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Maximize the effectiveness of processes, structure, and operations to support timely delivery of customer-oriented and efficient public services.

2011 Annual Report

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS

The following list the Supervisorial District and the Commissioner(s) appointed to represent the District:



Front Row: Chairperson Eleanor Montaño

Second Row: Commissioners Frank Bacio, Rita Hall, John Hammargren, Barbara Bigby and Carl Moore⁸

(Commissioners Cheryl Grills, PhD. & Anne Hill not shown in picture)

1 st Supervisorial District	Frank S. Bacio, Vice Chairperson Vacant (1)
2 nd Supervisorial District	Rita Hall Carl Moore (Term Ended 11-23-11)
3 rd Supervisorial District	Vacant (2)
4 th Supervisorial District	Eleanor R. Montaño, Chairperson John Hammargren (Resigned 7-1-11)
5 th Supervisorial District	Barbara Bigby Anne S. Hill

The Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections

Authority

The Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections is authorized by Chapter 2.82 of the Los Angeles County Code and consists of ten members; two from each Supervisorial District, with the Sheriff and the Chief Probation Officer serving as ex-officio members.

Duties

The members of the Sybil Brand Commission, or a committee of the Commission, is required to visit and inspect each jail, lockup, probation and correctional facility in the County at least once each year. They may conduct additional inspections more often as the Commission may deem necessary or as directed by a judge of the Superior Court. The Commission shall examine every department of each institution visited to ascertain its condition as to effective and economical administration, cleanliness, discipline and comfort of its inmates and juveniles at Probation camps. In addition, the Commission may call for and inspect the permit and register of such jail and lockup and may see and visit all persons kept in such jail and lockup, whether the institution is located within or without the corporate limits of any incorporated city. The Commission also inspects group home facilities to ascertain its condition.

Meeting Schedule

The Sybil Brand Commission meets each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in Room 372 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street in Los Angeles.

2011 Accomplishments of the Sybil Brand Commission

In calendar year 2011, the Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) accomplished the following objectives:

Reports

- The Commission conducted 282 site inspections.
 - ◆ Out of the 282 inspections, 48 were inspections of youth and adult lock-up facilities.
 - ◆ One Corrective Action Response Form submission was given to the following:
 - It was reported on January 5, 2011, that an inspection was held on December 12, 2010 at Lifecircles Group Home. A copy of an Action Plan was submitted to the Commission; the first visit was in November 2010. The home was revisited on June 28, 2011 and was found to be in satisfactory condition.
 - At the Business Meeting on January 19, 2011, it was reported to the Probation Department's (PD) representative that a vehicle belonging to Children Are Our Future (Terry House) was unsafe. At April 20, 2011 Business Meeting, the PD representative submitted to the Commission a Group Home Monitoring Unit Investigation Report which substantiated the Commission's findings.
 - To ensure a safe home like environment for the youth in group homes the Commission would revisit Group Homes to ensure compliance.
 - * Lifecircles Group Home (4 visits in 8 months)
 - * Children Are Our Future various sites (multiple visits)
 - * Other facilities with minor infractions were also revisited.
- Traveled an estimated annual mileage of 23,988 miles to conduct site inspections.
- Presided over 45 meetings where reports on institutional inspections were discussed.
- Presided over 11 Business Meetings with representatives from the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller, Children and Family Services, Internal Services, Mental Health, Probation, and Sheriff's Departments, to identify, discuss and find solutions to problems that arise at various facilities.
- Issued five letters of commendation to Sheriff Baca for a representative from the Sheriff's Department for attending the monthly Business Meeting and responsiveness at site visits at the following facilities:
 - ◆ Commander Margaret Ruiz, who was reassigned, had represented the Sheriff's Department at the Commission's monthly Business Meetings for more than five years.
 - ◆ Century Regional Detention Facility, Men's Central Jail, Pico Rivera Sheriff Station and Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station were acknowledged for the attentiveness, responsiveness, and courteous escort of Commissioners while inspecting their facility.

Donations

The Sybil Brand Commission maintains a savings account funded strictly through the voluntary monthly dues paid by each Commissioner. These funds are used exclusively to support programs and events associated with Sybil Brand Commission activities. Each transaction is voted on and any disbursement of Commission funds are placed on the agenda and approved by the majority vote of the Commission.

In 2011, the Sybil Brand Commission financially supported the following:

- The Commission awarded \$900 in scholarship funds to support the awardees in their pursuit of higher education.
- A Commission received a thank you card for the Commission's generous donation of \$100.00 to the Muzet N. Hall Scholarship Program.

The Annual Scholarship Presentation

On August 9, 2011, the Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections and Supervisor Antonovich hosted a Breakfast Reception and Awards Presentation in honor of scholarship recipients: Judeana Velasquez, Sephora Abui, and Talitha James. Each recipient was awarded a \$300 scholarship, following the presentation, the Commissioners escorted the scholarship recipients to the Board of Supervisors meeting where each of them received a five-signature scroll presented by Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Mayor of the Board of Supervisors.

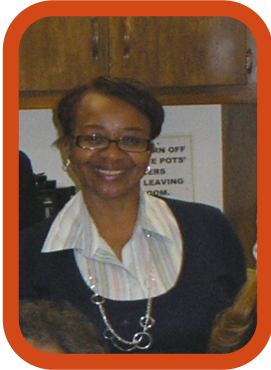


Front Row: Commissioner Rita Hall, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Chairperson Montaño, Scholarship Recipients Judeana Velasquez, Sephora Abui, and Talitha James

Second Row: Fifth District Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Commissioner Frank Bacio and Commissioner Carl Moore

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION IN ACTION

During the 2011 calendar year, the Sybil Brand Commission was addressed by invited guests from various departments throughout Los Angeles County.



On June 22, 2011, La Sonya Gibbs, MPA, Department of Children and Family Services, Administrator of the Communications/Scholarship Youth Development Services Division, offered assistance in recruiting scholarship recipients from the Department of Children and Family Services.

In 2011, the Commission held 11 Regular Business Meetings with Department Representatives to receive updates on group homes and probation facilities. The Commissioners also discussed experiences from inspections of recent detention facility and group home visits.





Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio, Chairperson Montaño, Commissioners John Hammargren, Rita Hall and Barbara Bigby

On June 22, 2011, the Commission bids farewell to Commissioner John Hammargren after seven years and presented him a Board of Supervisors scroll for his dedicated service to the affairs of the Commission, the civic pride demonstrated by numerous contributions for the benefit of all the citizens of Los Angeles County.

At the Commission's regular meetings Commissioners gathered to present outcomes from their site visits.



A Regular Commission Meeting



Commissioner Moore and Guest Speaker Paul McIver, Mental Health Department

Paul McIver, District Chief, Countywide Children's Case Management Programs, Department of Mental Health presentation was on the low number of public service medical doctors, medications issued to youth and the Mental Health Department's budget.

Sybil Brand Commission 2011

The Sybil Brand Commission will continue to encourage the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller, Children and Family Services, Internal Services, Mental Health, Probation and Sheriff Departments and the State of California Community Care Licensing Division, to work together and seek the assistance of the Commission to collaborate and help each Department achieve their independent goals.

Collaborative Efforts

As mandated by the Board of Supervisors, the Commission works closely with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Departments of Children and Family Services, Probation, Mental Health and the Auditor-Controller to monitor and ensure the safety and well-being of juveniles placed in County Group Homes and Juvenile Probation Camps. (Current information on the ever-changing problems faced by today's out-of-home care youth, both psychologically and socially, is essential to the understanding and support of these children.)

During the 2011 calendar year, the Sybil Brand Commission participated in the following:

- **On March 24, 2011, Chairperson Montaña, Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioners Bigby and Hall attended the DCFS and Probation Department Services evaluation program on how to improve all systems operating in child welfare. Commissioners participated by obtaining feedback, offering input, suggestions and solutions which resulted in forming the County's System Improvement Plan (SIP).**

Administrative Support

The Commission Services Division of the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors provides administrative support and coordinates the activities of the Commission. Staff members support the day-to-day operations, conduct research on issues of importance to the Commission, and prepare agendas, meeting minutes, reports and correspondence on behalf of the Commission. In addition, the staff advises the Commission on County policies, procedures, and regulations.

In calendar year 2011, the Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) staff were the following:



Angie Montes, Chief
Commission Services Division



Nyla Jefferson, Staff
Commission Services Division



Roy Sinclair, Staff
Commission Services Division

Sybil Brand Commission Goals for 2011

- To inspect all of the youth facilities and jails in the Northwest area of Los Angeles County by the end of the year.

The Santa Clarita Courthouse was visited on April 19, 2011.

- Once a month, the Commission as a whole, is to inspect the larger probation camps/jails.

In 2011, the Commission visited the Century Regional Detention Facility (4/5/11), Twin Towers Correctional Facility (10/27 & 11/1/11), and the Men's Central Jail (10/20 & 25/11).

- Encourage County departments to enlist the Commission's participation in conducting specific inspections, employment interviews, review panels, focus groups, etc.
 - **Chairperson Montaña, Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioners Bigby and Hall participated in a DCFS and Probation Department collaboration meeting titled, "System Improvement Plan" that was held on March 24, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at Glendale Adventist Medical Center. The County System Improvement Plan (SIP) is one of the principal components of California's Outcomes and Accountability System, which is used to monitor and assess the quality of services provided by both DCFS and Probation and to determine whether or not such services are helping to achieve improved outcomes in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families.**
 - **Commissioner Hall attended the "Celebration", which honored the Academic Achievements of Foster Youth, that was held at the Walt Disney Concert Hall on Tuesday, June 7, 2011.**
 - **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioners Bigby attended the Quality and Productivity Commission's 2011 Commissioners' Leadership Conference at The Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on May 12, 2011.**
- Establish a partnership with the Auditor-Controller's Office Ombudsman Program that would include distributing their written materials and collaborating in special projects.
- Select scholarship recipients by May 31, 2011 in order to mention SBC Scholarship Award in the recipient's June 2011 Graduation Program.
 - ♦ Remain in contact with former scholarship recipients.
 - ♦ Continue to network with Group Homes to recruit potential scholarship recipients.
 - **Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship applications were distributed in June 2011 to foster and probation youth. Commissioners also distributed applications at Group Homes. Twelve applications were reviewed and rated for the scholarship; the Commission selected three applicants from that group. The Scholarship awardees received \$300 each that was presented on August 9, 2011. hosted by the Fifth Supervisorial District.**
- **Staff prepared a list of past awardees for the Commission to reference.**

The Business Meeting

Commission would like to acknowledge and thank the following participants who attended the Commission's Business Meeting held monthly in 2011:

Carla Carr, Auditor-Controller's Office

Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor-Controller's Office

David Coleman, Internal Services Department

Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services

Elizabeth A. Howard, Department of Children and Family Services

Commander Gerald Cooper, Sheriff's Department

Lieutenant Allen T. Kunihiro, Sheriff's Department,

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department

Luis Enriquez, Internal Service Department

Michael Henderson, Internal Service Department

Mike Valera, Probation Department

Pamela Pease, Probation Department

Patricia Balonos-Gonzalez, Department of Children and Family Services

Paul McIver, Department of Mental Health

Scott Sanders, Probation Department

Commander Warren Asmus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

William Kiriama, Internal Service Department

Thank You

The Commission would like to thank the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
and the Executive Office for their ongoing support.

Zev Yaroslavsky
Chairman
Third District

Gloria Molina
Supervisor
First District

Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor
Fifth District



Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor
Second District

Don Knabe
Supervisor
Fourth District

Executive Officer
Sachi A. Hamai

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